



Legislative Bulletin.....April 27, 2004

Contents:

- H. R. 3942** — Rhode Island Veterans Post Office Building Redesignation Act
- H.Res. 399** — Honoring the life and legacy of Melvin Jones and recognizing the contributions of Lions Clubs International
- H.Res. 578**—Supporting the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month

Summary of the Bills Under Consideration Today:

Total Number of New Government Programs: 0
Year to Date Prior to Today's Bills: 17

Total Cost of Discretionary Authorizations: \$0
Year to Date Prior to Today's Bills: At least \$199.0 billion[#] over five years

Total Amount of Revenue Reductions: \$0
Year to Date Prior to Today's Bills: \$9.8 billion over five years

Total Change in Mandatory Spending: \$0
Year to Date Prior to Today's Bills: \$474 million over five years

Total New State & Local Government Mandates: 0
Year to Date Prior to Today's Bills: 11[#]

Total New Private Sector Mandates: 0
Year to Date Prior to Today's Bills: 11

[#] This figure does not include H.R. 3873, the Child Nutrition Improvement and Integrity Act. A CBO analysis of this bill is not yet completed.

H.R. 3942 — Rhode Island Veterans Post Office Building Redesignation Act (*Kennedy of Rhode Island*)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, April 27, 2004, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Note: On October 10, 2002, the House passed by voice vote H.R. 670, a bill sponsored by Rep. Patrick Kennedy, which named this post office location the “Bruce F. Cotta Post Office

Building.” H.R. 3942 would rename this same post office (see additional background below for further explanation).

Summary: H.R. 3942 would designate the U.S. Postal Service facility located at 7 Commercial Boulevard in Middletown, Rhode Island, as the “Rhode Island Veterans Post Office Building.”

Additional Background: A July 2003 AP story reported that Bruce Cotta had “illegally obtained his highest honor by buying a Distinguished Service Cross on the Internet...then forged papers that would go along with a Distinguished Service Cross and sent them to Rep. Patrick Kennedy.” Kennedy subsequently presented Cotta with the illegally obtained Distinguished Service Cross (the Army's second-highest honor) in 2000. In October 2002, Rep. Kennedy attended a ceremony renaming the post office at 7 Commercial Boulevard after Cotta. Cotta, who is a decorated Vietnam veteran holding a Silver Star, two Purple Hearts, the Soldier's Medal, and a Bronze Star, agreed to perform 100 hours of community service and contribute \$5,000 to the Army Emergency Relief Fund to avoid prosecution, according to the AP story.

Source: “War Vet Admits Illegally Obtaining Honor” *AP*, July 23, 2003; post office renaming ceremony: <http://www.thebobcats.us/library.htm>

Committee Action: On April 1, 2004, the Committee on Government Reform marked up and, by unanimous consent, ordered the bill reported to the full House.

Cost to Taxpayers: The only costs associated with a postal facility renaming are those for sign and map changes, none of which significantly affect the federal budget.

Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Constitutional Authority: Although no committee report citing constitutional authority is available, Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution grants Congress the authority to “establish Post Offices and post Roads.”

Staff Contact: Sheila Moloney, sheila.moloney@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-9719.

H.Res. 399 — Honoring the life and legacy of Melvin Jones and recognizing the contributions of Lions Clubs International (Kennedy of Minnesota)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, April 27, 2004, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Res. 399 has eight findings regarding Melvin Jones and the Lions Clubs International and resolves that the House of Representatives:

“(1) honors the life and legacy of volunteerism and community service of Melvin Jones; and

“(2) recognizes the contributions and service of Lions Clubs International to communities and those in need throughout the world.”

Additional Background: Melvin Jones was born in January of 1879 and died on June 1, 1961. In 1917, Jones helped create what is now known as the Lions Club International. According to the resolution’s findings, Lions Clubs International counts over 46,000 clubs and 1.4 million members, and constitutes the largest network of service clubs in the world. In 1950, Melvin Jones was conferred the title of Secretary General of Lions International for life. For more information, including information on the Lions Clubs see: <http://lions-mjm.org/> and <http://www.lionsclubs.org/>

Committee Action: The resolution was introduced on October 15, 2003. On April 1, 2004, the Committee on Government Reform marked up and, by unanimous consent, ordered the bill reported to the full House.

Cost to Taxpayers: None.

Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Staff Contact: Sheila Moloney, sheila.moloney@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-9719.

H.Res. 578—Supporting the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month (Biggert)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, April 27th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Res. 578 would resolve that the House:

- “supports the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month; and
- “requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on the Federal Government, States, localities, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, other entities, and the people of the United States to observe the month with appropriate programs and activities.”

The resolution also finds that “personal financial education is essential to ensure that individuals are prepared to manage money, credit, and debt, and become responsible workers, heads of households, investors, entrepreneurs, business leaders, and citizens....”

The resolution highlights a 2002 study by the Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy, which found that high school seniors know even less about credit cards, retirement

funds, insurance, and other personal finance basics than seniors did 5 years ago. And a 2002 survey by the National Council on Economic Education found that a decreasing number of states include personal finance in their educational standards for students in kindergarten through 12th grade.

Furthermore the resolution states that, “Congress sought to implement a national strategy for coordination of Federal financial literacy efforts through the establishment of the Financial Literacy and Education Commission in 2003, the designation of the Office of Financial Education of the Department of the Treasury to provide support for the Commission, and requirements that the Commission's materials, website, toll-free hotline, and national multimedia campaign be multilingual. . . . The National Council on Economic Education, its State Councils and Centers for Economic Education, the Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy, its State affiliates, and its partner organizations have designated April as ‘Financial Literacy Month’ to educate the public about the need for increased financial literacy for youth in the United States.”

Additional Background: Earlier this Congress, the House passed a substantively similar resolution, H.Res. 127, by a vote of 380-1: <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2003/roll110.xml>

Congress established the Financial Literacy and Education Commission in H.R. 2622 (Section 513 of Public Law 108-159) last year.

For more information on the Jump\$tart Coalition, visit this website:
<http://www.jumpstart.org/>

For more information on the National Council on Economic Education, visit this website:
<http://www.ncee.net/>

According to GuideStar, neither the Jump\$tart Coalition nor the National Council on Economic Education receives government funds. For more information, visit this webpage:
<http://www.guidestar.org>

Committee Action: On April 1, 2004, the Government Reform Committee marked up and by unanimous consent reported the resolution to the full House.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution would authorize no expenditure.

Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

RSC Staff Contact: Paul S. Teller, paul.teller@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-9718

###